

JCR Meeting 31.01.15 Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies: Fenella Keevil (Ents Exec), Millie Paine (Ents Officer), Eleanor Costello (Academic Affairs), Laura Hallahan (Women's Officer)

Unapologetic absences: Clinton Teh (Publications Officer), Isla Phillips (Welfare Exec), Allan Hennessy (Charities Officer) and Max Herinckx (Ents Officer)

2. Updates

a. JCR Renovation

Alex has corresponded with the Fitzwilliam Society about getting a foosball table: they want a Skype call with him to discuss it. The projector will go on the JMA budget, and other renovations (Oxford Road barbeque, sports board, decorations) will come out of the JCR budget. The vending machine will be moved when the other renovations are done.

b. Vacation Stay

Alex has discussed it with Paul Chirico and now knows there are 42 rooms available during Easter and 52 during Christmas that are free in terms of contracts, and so could potentially be used for a vacation stay bursary scheme.

Actions arising:

Damiano: discuss with Domestic whether these rooms are available during conference season.

c. Porters Lodge/ Library Items

Eleanor has an upcoming library committee meeting at which she will bring up the proposed supplies.

Actions arising:

Eleanor: raise proposed supplies in library committee meeting.

d. Minimum Room Standards

It turns out there's an existing document with minimum room standards that college believes is currently adhered to. Domestic have said no to having certain guarantees in room contracts i.e. desk, lamp etc. is fine but they were unhappy about the water/light/heat related things. Can we at least guarantee that all rooms have the same facilities? Well the disparity is due to some rooms being used by conference guests, and due to some rooms being renovated, but they will consider it – we might have to ask someone more senior if we want them to keep track of items moved in and out of rooms for guests. Rooms are cleaned to different levels as ones that have had guests are cleaned twice over the holidays, whereas others are only cleaned once. They do have a sweep before Michaelmas starts but not a proper clean, as manpower is being used on cleaning rooms that have been used by guests, which are obviously a priority. Alex asks if we could perhaps have another clean, given that they have four months – Damiano will look into it. Domestic claims not to have had complaints of mice, broken showers etc. which seems unlikely. As of Michaelmas, they'll be trialling a Domestic Help Desk, which might be helpful. Can we also request pillows that aren't rubbish? And scrap the linen scheme? And check kitchen appliances which can actually be dangerous? Damiano will investigate.

Actions arising:

Damiano: find out if rooms can be cleaned more than once over the long vac. Find out if we can get better pillows, have some kind of guarantee of safe kitchen appliances, and scrap the freshers' linen scheme.

e. Budget

This is to be presented to the JMA soon.

f. Environmental Policy Petition

We are now signed up to this.

g. International Storage

After some to-ing and fro-ing and mixed messages we have now established that we can't use a squash court as one is being turned into a gym and one is being used as an Arts and Drama room, so we need the third to remain a squash court. Sebastian is determined to make international storage free, as at others colleges it is, so will look into another solution.

Actions arising:

Sebastian: look into an alternative that will make international storage free.

h. Term Card

The term card has been sent out. People should check out the MCR one if they get a chance as it's way nicer than ours, printed on sexy paper etc. In other words, it's the dream.

i. JCR Website

People need to get on it with their pages. The deadline is 15th February.

Actions arising:

All committees: take a look at the website, and other JCR websites, and compose an informative page/pages by the 15th February.

j. Stash

The American Apparel hoodie was too expensive but Zoe has found a fairly similar one on Image Scotland, and should be receiving samples and a quote shortly (from her mate Graham).

Actions arising:

Zoe: determine that the total cost will not be more than £25, then ask people what they want on their hoodies and get them made.

k. Google Drive

Is everyone connected to the Google Drive? There is a hushed silence. Damiano interprets it as awe.

Actions arising:

All committee members: use the Google Drive to upload info/update development plan etc.

l. Master's Film

According to Alison Carter (the Malcolm Tucker of Fitz), the film is intended to improve Fitz's social media presence. It will involve the master talking to people around college and will be filmed in about two weeks. They weren't going to put rowing in, as it's pretentious (Sammi: 'What absolute bollocks!'), but Alex has convinced them to. Now we just need to find out whether we're allowed to use it.

Actions arising:

Alex: ask Alison Carter whether we're allowed to use the video.

3. Matters Arising

a. CUSU

Surprisingly, quite a few people read Alex's report. Our initial thoughts are that if we can no longer attend access forums (which trains T&A officers and allows them to maintain a connection with other colleges), welfare events etc., which seems to be the case – we only get basic training in condoms and shadows – then this is a very big loss. What is the motive for disaffiliation? Well the JMA might allow us a bigger budget if we disaffiliated and had more money to play with. But this isn't even set in stone, in which case it certainly doesn't seem worth the access loss. Dr. Wingate (JMA treasurer) told us not to base disaffiliation on finances, and Maximilian reminds us that the money saved by disaffiliation wouldn't just be at our disposal. Should we still have a debate, or are we completely against it? Damiano reminds us that the JCR is concerned with the current undergraduates of Fitz, so we shouldn't be overly concerned with access. There's also the free-riding issue, but Alex points out that as we are far less rich than most colleges we shouldn't be overly concerned with this. There would be no change to sexual health supplies. Also CUSU no longer get free pizza from Dominoes, except at the freshers' fair. It was eventually decided that it would be a good idea to hold an open meeting with Helen (CUSU president) and the president of at least one of the disaffiliated colleges so we can establish what exactly each committee would lose. This is probably best done on a weekend. We also need to ascertain whether or not the JMA would increase our budget if we were to disaffiliate, as if it would make no difference financially there seems to be no benefit in disaffiliation. Alex would still like to change the standing orders just in case, although this change will need to be worded such that if the relevant officers *are* able to attend meetings, they're obligated to do so.

Housing ballot: Discussion then veered away into whether there should be a change in the housing ballot, and whether we should hold an open meeting (perhaps joining it with the CUSU one). People think no one would really come either way, so whatever Trevor. So what about changing the ballot? Apparently college might allow pulling up to corridors, as long as all houses have already been filled. Damiano wants to shorten the time between the order is drawn and the decision has to be made. There is much disagreement as to whether the stress can be reduced and whether it should be at the cost of shortening decision time. After a lot of general discussion and suggestions, it was decided that the structure of the weekend should be as follows: (1) all names drawn on the Saturday morning (7th March), (2) second and third years and scholars have to decide rooms by Saturday evening, (3) first and fourth years have to decide rooms on the Sunday (8th) which will be staggered throughout the day. The JCR will make an informal recommendation that the top ten meet on the Saturday to discuss what they're currently planning. We are assured that we won't run out of rooms this time.

Actions arising:

Alex: determine whether disaffiliation would help us financially. Organise an open meeting with Helen and at least one president of a disaffiliated JCR, preferably on a weekend. Change the JCR standing orders to accommodate the eventuality of disaffiliation.

Damiano: draw up a timetable for the weekend of the housing ballot, as per our discussion. When the time comes, issue an informal recommendation that the top ten meet before decision time.

b. Rent Negotiations

Alex has an upcoming meeting with the bursar about reducing rent, although he thinks it unlikely there will be a change. We should make it clear that he's trying.

Actions arising:

Alex: give Tom proposal to put online and send it round to the year, letting them know that it'll be discussed in the next meeting.

Tom: get rent negotiation proposal from Alex.

c. Fitz Up Look Sharp

Set up will be from 11:00am on the 6th, set down will be from 9:00am on the 7th. All JCR members should make themselves available and help for as much of this as possible.

Actions arising:

All committee members: help with set up and set down as much as possible.

d. Meeting Agendas on Website

Alex put the agendas of various college meetings on the website so people can see what was discussed. This should be maintained.

Actions arising:

Alex: continue to upload meeting agendas to JCR website.

e. JCR Pictures

Joe is happy to take the photos. Alex will use the Doodlepoll to pick two times, in case people are unable to attend one.

Actions arising:

Alex: pick times for photo shoot.

f. High Table Replies

Everyone needs to confirm their attendance of High Table: it's a great night, Alex promises!

Actions arising:

All committee members: reply re High Table.

4. Proposed Allotment

The college's environmental committee are pushing for a college allotment behind Wilson Court. The gardener has costed it at £2000 and it will contain rose beds etc. There are other sources of money for this project e.g. the committee itself and alumni, but some might have to come out of the JMA budget. It looks as though this is a popular idea, but we want the gardener to give us the data for who is keen on the idea, as well as putting together a cost-evaluation for the budget, preferably before the JMA meeting on 10th February.

Actions arising:

Tessa: ask the gardener to put together an explanation of the cost for the JMA budget and provide us with the data of how many people have expressed an interest. Send Alex agenda from meeting.

5. Any Other Business

n/a